

used as a model for colleges and universities throughout the country by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Another highlight of her tenure at Kutztown was establishing the Philadelphia Masters in Elementary Education Graduate Program. This program helped 64 Philadelphia teachers obtain master degrees from Kutztown and led to developing similar programs for teachers in Reading and Allentown.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Geskus was active in several national organizations, including the Middle States Steering Committee, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the College of Education.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the distinguished career of Dr. Elsa Geskus and all who commit themselves to teaching others.

HONORING THE 11 WOMEN EMISSARIES OF MEMPHIS MUSIC

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor and recognize 11 truly inspirational women who have each played a part in making the music of Memphis world renown. Memphis's music heritage has been called the "soundtrack of America" and these talented artists deserve our thanks and are extremely justified in the recognition bestowed on them today by the Memphis and Shelby County Music Commission.

The esteemed emissaries are Jo Bridges, Joyce Cobb, Jackie Johnson, Susan Marshall, Judy Peiser, Di Anne Price, Reba Russell, Linn Sittler, Pat Kerr Tigrett, Deanie Parker and Ruby Wilson.

Tennessee is the home of country and blues music and the birthplace of the "rock and roll." We are also proud of the thousands of singers, songwriters, performers, producers, and other music industry professionals that make their homes and livelihood within the state and allow Tennessee to compete with New York and California as a hub of creativity and entertainment.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in both thanking and congratulating the new Emissaries of Memphis Music for their dedication and devotion for enriching our lives with wonderful sound and music. These 11 women are truly worthy recipients of this outstanding honor.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY OILERS ON WINNING THE 2009 NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Findlay Oilers on the occasion of their winning the 2009 NCAA Division II men's basketball championship. The Oilers defeated the Cal

Poly Pomona Broncos for the championship on Saturday, March 28, 2009, in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The Oilers ended their perfect 36-0 season in overtime when senior guard Tyler Evans hit a fade-away three-point shot as time expired, clinching the university's first ever basketball title. With this win, the Oilers become only the fourth perfect championship team in Division II men's basketball history. The Oilers are also the most winning team in Division II of the past decade, with a record of 238-46.

I would also like to congratulate Head Coach Ron Niekamp and his coaching staff for their outstanding commitment to Oilers basketball. Coach Niekamp was named the 2009 Molten Division II Bulletin Coach of the Year. In addition, senior forward Josh Bostic was named the 2009 Division II Player of the Year.

I am honored to join the chorus of well-wishers as the University of Findlay and the broader community celebrates this remarkable achievement. I join with my colleagues in wishing them all continued success.

REGARDING DUTCH AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 227th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and the United States of America.

On the 19th of April, 1782 in the City of The Hague, the Ambassadorial credentials of John Adams were officially recognized by Prince William V of Orange, thus establishing formal diplomatic ties between the new Government of the United States and the Republic of the Netherlands.

For centuries, the people of the Netherlands and the United States have shared a bond that has influenced the culture of our two nations and contributed to our mutual prosperity.

In September, we will celebrate the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's voyage up what would become known as the Hudson River in New York. Hudson's voyage led to the establishment of New Amsterdam and the New Netherlands colony. Celebrations commemorating this important event have already begun.

As we reflect today on the commercial bond and strategic partnership we have established with the people of the Netherlands over these many years, let us not forget how the strength of our alliance and the endurance of our friendship has helped make both our countries wealthy and stronger and the world more secure as a result.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICES CORPS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an ambulance corps that is

celebrating 65 years of faithfully serving communities in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Volunteer Medical Services Corps of Lower Merion, Narberth, Conshohocken and West Conshohocken provides critical care services in a 49 square-mile area and responds to more than 7,200 calls for help each year.

The dedicated and highly-skilled first responders stand ready to answer calls at all hours, in the sweltering heat of summer and the frigid depths of winter, and on some of suburban Philadelphia's most heavily traveled highways, including the Schuylkill Expressway and the Blue Route.

Since its founding in 1944, Volunteer Medical Services Corps has remained true to its mission of providing the highest quality care to each patient its members transport with compassion and dignity.

The Corps owes a large measure of its success to more than 70 volunteers who selflessly give approximately 8,000 hours of service each year.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating Volunteer Medical Services Corps of Lower Merion, Narberth, Conshohocken and West Conshohocken on its 65th anniversary and acknowledging the tremendous commitment and service of its volunteers and professional staff.

RYAN JAMES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan James, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 75, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Ryan has shown an extraordinary commitment to scouting as evidenced by earning several merit badges. Ryan demonstrated a tremendous work ethic in earning his personal merit badge by incorporating his own lawn mowing business.

Ryan's Eagle Scout service project consisted of painting the kitchen and fellowship hall of the United Methodist Church in Maryville, Missouri. This project continues the long tradition of community service established by the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan James for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES, INC.

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. (LA NHS), a non-

profit lender and community developer dedicated to building stronger neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles County, on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary.

Incorporated in 1984, LA NHS has catapulted itself from a small housing agency to the largest, non-profit affordable homeownership provider in Southern California. LA NHS focuses on specific target neighborhoods in Los Angeles County. In addition to the Boyle Heights/East Los Angeles areas in the 34th Congressional District, the organization targets Central Los Angeles, Crenshaw, Pacoima, San Pedro-Wilmington and Carson.

Over the last 25 years, LA NHS has reinvested more than \$2 billion into neighborhoods throughout the county and region. The organization has developed and rehabilitated more than 11,000 housing and commercial units, put 1.9 million families on the road to homeownership, created 175 block clubs, and employed 200 neighborhood youth. As a lender to underserved communities, LA NHS has maintained a loan portfolio with a 3 percent or less delinquency ratio and no foreclosures.

Since 2007, LA NHS, along with its partners through the Los Angeles County NeighborWorks® Center for Foreclosure Solutions, has been on the frontline of the mortgage crisis. The LA NHS 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner Concert & Silent Auction, scheduled for April 30, 2009, will commemorate the partners that have worked tirelessly to keep families in their homes in the midst of this crisis.

As a Community Development Financial Institution during the last fiscal year, Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services working with its affiliates, NHS Neighborhood Redevelopment Corporation and NHS Neighborhood Lending Services, reinvested nearly \$97 million into Los Angeles neighborhoods, providing nearly \$70 million in loans to local residents to improve housing conditions, create homeownership opportunities, and combat predatory lending. In addition, during that time, LA NHS reinvested more than \$9.8 million through real estate services and \$1.5 million through neighborhood revitalization projects.

Through aggressive foreclosure prevention efforts, LA NHS assisted more than 59,000 families over the last fiscal year to preserve their homes and prevent foreclosure. This ongoing multi-faceted initiative includes post-purchase education fairs, clinics and workshops, affordable lending, loan modifications, comprehensive loss mitigation initiatives, and other LA NHS programs.

I had the privilege of seeing firsthand the extraordinarily helpful services provided by LA NHS to residents of the 34th Congressional District. Last July, more than 500 homeowners attended a LA NHS organized-foreclosure prevention fair in the City of Downey. Credit counselors and lenders were on hand at the free event to offer on-site assistance, one-on-one counseling, and information on viable options to avoid foreclosure. Housing, tax and financial professionals also provided presentations to help homeowners understand the foreclosure process, guard against fraud and scams, address tax issues and rebuild their credit. Representatives from the LA County NeighborWorks Center for Foreclosure Solutions, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and area banks also participated in the workshop.

LA NHS credits the tremendous efforts of its community volunteers during the last fiscal

year for the success of its outreach efforts, including the Downey foreclosure prevention fair. More than 800 volunteers spent more than 6,400 hours participating in the LA NHS sponsored foreclosure prevention fairs, clinics, workshops, and Neighborhood Pride Day events. The two Pride Day events involved more than 400 volunteers who gave their time and labor to refurbish homes and plant flowers in underserved neighborhoods. In total during the last fiscal year, these community outreach events assisted more than 10,000 families to preserve their homes and prevent foreclosure.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. 25th Anniversary, I join today with fellow leaders from throughout the state in recognizing President and Chief Executive Officer Lori Gay, Board Chairman Sal Mendoza, the Board of Directors, and the organization's 40 employees for their tireless work to help families throughout Los Angeles County. I extend my thanks on behalf of the residents of the 34th Congressional District for their passion and determination to revitalize communities, build stronger neighborhoods and help families of modest means actualize their dream of homeownership, and I wish them many years of continued success.

HONORING MAYOR TONY ARREDIA
OF DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant from my Congressional District, Mayor Tony Arredia of Des Plaines. After nine years as Mayor, Tony has decided to retire.

Tony was born and raised on the west side of Chicago, and he attended Mount Carmel High School. In the private sector, Tony brought his talents and relational skills to bear as he worked for Continental Bank and the Asbury Court Retirement Community.

In his first experience with elected public office, Tony served two terms as the 8th Ward Alderman of Des Plaines. Then, in 2000, Tony was appointed to replace Mayor Paul Jung. Over the years, Tony has been an insightful observer, keen in his understanding of the long-term challenges facing the City. Throughout his career, he has tackled these challenges with deft skill, deep understanding, and strong personal integrity.

While constant change has brought a steady stream of new difficulties for Des Plaines to confront, one thing has remained the same. Mayor Arredia has kept a steady hand to the wheel, advising the City Council and working tirelessly for the benefit of the community and her residents.

Tony Arredia has been an advocate for the people of Des Plaines since his very first days in office. Tony truly embodies the meaning of a public servant as he approaches his job with compassion and humility. In his time with the City, he has shown true leadership to bring economic development to the area and to achieve important progress in flood preparedness and relief. Tony has improved all of our lives and left an indelible impression on the City of Des Plaines.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Tony Arredia is a remarkable leader who has dedicated his life to serving the people of Des Plaines. Please join me in recognizing his extraordinary service and wishing him every happiness in the well deserved respite of his retirement.

IN HONOR OF COACH BRUCE
SNYDER

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary and inspirational life of Coach Bruce Snyder. Diagnosed with cancer just last year, Coach Snyder passed away early in the morning on Monday, April 13, 2009. He was 69 years old.

Coach Snyder will always be remembered for his many successes as the head football coach at Arizona State University from 1992–2000, and before that at the University of California. Under his leadership, the Sun Devils won 58 games and made four bowl appearances. More than 40 of Coach Snyder's players were drafted into the NFL, and he produced over 100 All-Pac-10 honorees.

ASU alumni the world over remember the magical 1996 season. Bruce Snyder coached the Sun Devils to one of their best seasons in history, going 11–1, upsetting many highly ranked championship teams, and coming heartbreakingly close to a NCAA national championship. He was named Coach of the Year, an honor that could not have been more appropriate.

Coach Snyder's time at ASU is incredibly impressive, and has certainly left a lasting impression on me. But the ultimate record of his work lies in the positive and lasting impact he has made upon the hearts and minds of the people he touched. Players, family and friends recall Coach Snyder as a man of tremendous personal integrity, culture and caring for those around him. He imparted life lessons on his players that went far beyond the field. As one former player so aptly put it upon learning of Coach Snyder's passing, "He was a good coach, but a better man."

Madam Speaker, please join me and Bruce's wife and children in mourning the loss and honoring the legacy of Bruce Snyder.

RECOGNIZING DR. RUTH PERSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, on April 17 the University of Michigan-Flint will install Dr. Ruth Person as their new chancellor. The inaugural ceremony and a public reception will be held on campus that day to celebrate this event.

Dr. Ruth Person received her bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania, and her master's and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. She also earned a master's